

A RESOLUTION to honor women legislators in Tennessee upon the 100th anniversary of women in state legislatures.

WHEREAS, 1995 is our nation's one hundred year anniversary of women serving in state legislatures; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has been blessed with 55 women legislators since the creation of the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the first woman to serve in our state Senate was Ann Lee Keys Worley who was elected to fill the unexpired term of her late husband; she gracefully represented Sullivan and Hawkins counties from 1921-1923; and

WHEREAS, Senator Worley passed landmark legislation including the act "removing disabilities from women" and making females eligible to hold any public office in Tennessee; she authored the Mother's Pension bill and was on occasion designated by the Senate Speaker to preside over the body's deliberations; and

WHEREAS, Marian Scudder Griffin, the first woman to serve in the Tennessee House of Representatives, was elected in 1923 to represent Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, serving from 1923-1925, Representative Griffin successfully passed legislation to allow women to practice law in our state, and subsequently, she was the first female attorney admitted to the practice of law in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Anne M. Davis served in the House from 1925 to 1927, representing Knox County, and is known as the "Mother of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park"; she initiated the effort to create the park, passed legislation for the state to purchase the first tract of land, and sought appropriate money for purchasing additional land; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Ruth Frazier of Hamilton County served in the House from 1927 to 1929, after working with the Tennessee Equal Suffrage Association and the League of Women Voters for ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Lillian Neblitt Scott served in the House from 1951 through 1957, represented Shelby and Tipton counties from 1957-1959 in the Senate, and served as Chair of the Senate Education Committee; and

WHEREAS, Senator Scott was later appointed Commissioner of the Department of Welfare after which she became Commissioner of the Department of Employment Security; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Lavinia Brown was elected to the House in 1967 to represent Davidson County; she was the first black woman elected to the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, serving until 1969, Representative Brown also had a distinguished medical career as the first black woman to practice general surgery in the South; and

WHEREAS, Lois M. DeBerry has represented Shelby County since 1973, serving longer in the Tennessee General Assembly than any other woman in the history of our great state; and

WHEREAS, Representative DeBerry has served as House Speaker Pro Tempore since 1988, the first woman to ever hold such a position; this exemplary lady also serves as President of the National Caucus of Black State Legislators; and

WHEREAS, Anna Belle Clement O'Brien served as a state representative from 1975-1977 and presently represents District 12 in the state Senate; during her tenure in the Senate she has exercised extraordinary leadership as Majority Floor Leader, Majority Caucus Chair, and Chair of the Transportation and Education committees; and

WHEREAS, Sharon Joyce Bell, a former judge of Knoxville's General Sessions Court and Chancellor of Tennessee's 6th Judicial District, Part III, served with distinction in the House of Representatives from 1978-1982; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Powell Duer, who has represented Cumberland and Rhea counties since 1981, is the first woman to hold the position of House Republican Caucus Chair; and

WHEREAS, Karen R. Williams, state representative for Shelby County from 1983-1994, currently serves as Tennessee's Deputy Commissioner of Personnel; and

WHEREAS, the election of 1988 provided our state Senate with its first black female, the honorable Thelma M. Harper of Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, each of the 55 women who have served in the Tennessee General Assembly have distinguished themselves and our state with their meritorious efforts, enhancing every area of state government; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that today, April 17, 1995, during this the 100th year of women in state legislatures, we should honor and recognize the distinguished female legislators in our great state and express to them our gratitude for their outstanding service, significant contributions, and selfless sacrifice; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor, recognize, commemorate, and thank the following women for their service in the Tennessee General Assembly:

Mrs. Jerry "Tommye" Agee; Mary M. Anderson; Martha H. Ashe; Mae Beavers; Sharon Joyce Bell; Kathryn I. Bowers; Henri E. Brooks; Dorothy L. Brown; Tommie F. Brown; Wilma Harrison Brown; Jan Sullivan Bushing; Stephanie H. Chivers; Carol J. Chumney; Sandra Clark; Norma J. Crow; Anne M. Davis; Betty Coulter Davis; Lois M. DeBerry; Frances Doyle; Maria Peroulas Draper; Shirley Powell Duer; Mary Ann Eckles; Gwen Fleming; Sarah Ruth Frazier; Pamela A. Gaia; Marion Griffin; Thelma Harper; Beth Halteman Harwell; Joyce Barnett Hassell; Mabel W. Hughes; Sherry Stoner Jones; Peggy Steed Knight; Edith Taylor Langster; Mildred Louella Lashlee; Joan Lowe; Kim McMillan; Lizzie Lea Miller; Ruth C. Montgomery; Anna Belle Clement O'Brien; Ruth Webb Odell; Mae Stamey Owenby; Dana E. (Moore) Patterson; Mary J. Pruitt; Carol Rice; Ruth M. Robinson; Mrs. C. Frank Scott; Mary Merrill Shadow; Katherine Chesney Shook; Joan F. Strong; Maude Tucker Taylor; Edna Tullos; Brenda K. Turner; Karen R. Williams; Robbie Wolfe; and Ann Lee Worley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final resolving clause deleted from such copies.